

In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Claims 1-180 (canceled)

~~181~~¹. (New) A block splitter for splitting a concrete workpiece in a splitting operation to produce a concrete block having at least one irregular split edge and surface, comprising:

- a) an activatable first splitting blade assembly comprising a first splitting edge configured to split the workpiece to produce at least one block;
- b) at least one first engagement surface extending outwardly from the first splitting edge at an acute angle relative to horizontal; and
- c) a first plurality of projections projecting from the first engagement surface adjacent the first splitting edge, said first plurality of projections being positioned to engage the workpiece and break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

~~182~~². (New) The block splitter of claim ~~181~~¹, comprising a first engagement surface extending outwardly from the first splitting edge on each side thereof at acute angles relative to horizontal, and a plurality of said projections projecting from each of said first engagement surfaces adjacent the first splitting edge.

~~183~~³. (New) The block splitter of claim ~~182~~², including a second activatable splitting blade assembly opposed to the first splitting blade assembly, wherein the second splitting blade assembly includes a second splitting edge, a plurality of second engagement surfaces extending outwardly from the second splitting edge on opposite sides thereof at acute angles relative to horizontal, and a second plurality of projections projecting from the second engagement surfaces adjacent the second splitting edge, said second plurality of projections being positioned to engage the workpiece and break away portions of the workpiece during the splitting operation.

184. (New) The block splitter of claim 183, wherein the acute angles of the engagement surfaces are between about 0 degrees and about 30 degrees.

185. (New) The block splitter of claim 181, wherein the first splitting blade assembly is adapted to be activated by one or more hydraulically actuated cylinders.

186. (New) The block splitter of claim 181, wherein the effective range of travel of the splitting blade assembly is variable.

187. (New) The block splitter of claim 183, wherein the workpiece includes generally horizontal top and bottom surfaces and opposed, generally vertical, first and second side surfaces, wherein the first splitter assembly is adapted to engage the top surface of the workpiece, wherein the second splitter assembly is adapted to engage the bottom surface of the workpiece, and further including a third activatable splitter assembly adapted to engage the first side surface of the workpiece, and an opposed fourth activatable splitter assembly adapted to engage the second side surface of the workpiece, wherein each of the third and fourth splitter assemblies includes one or more projections positioned to engage the workpiece during the splitting operation.

188. (New) The block splitter of claim 181, wherein the projections are generally cylindrical.

189. (New) The block splitter of claim 188, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch and about 1.25 inch.

190. (New) The block splitter of claim 187, wherein each projection on one side of the splitting edge is aligned with a projection on the other side of the splitting edge.

191. (New) A splitting blade assembly for splitting a concrete workpiece in a block splitter, comprising:

a) a splitting blade positioned to split the concrete workpiece when the workpiece is positioned in the block splitter, the splitting blade including a splitting edge; and

b) a plurality of projections positioned adjacent to the splitting edge on at least one side thereof, the plurality of projections being spaced from the splitting edge and from each other and being positioned to engage the workpiece and break away portions of the workpiece during operation of the splitting blade to split the workpiece.

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192. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 191, comprising a plurality of projections positioned on each side of the splitting edge.

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193. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 191, wherein the projections are generally cylindrical.

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194. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 193, wherein the projections have a diameter of between about 0.5 inch and about 1.25 inch.

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195. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 191, wherein the projections are generally pyramidal in shape.

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196. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 192, wherein each projection on one side of the splitting edge is aligned with a projection on the other side of the splitting edge.

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197. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 192, wherein the projections on one side of the splitting edge are staggered with respect to the projections on the other side of the splitting edge.

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198. (New) The splitting blade assembly of claim 191, wherein the plurality of projections are adjacent the splitting blade along the length of the splitting blade.